

Coffin and Man at Yale

William Sloane Coffin Jr., Presbyterian chaplain of Yale for the last nine years, has all the Establishment trappings. As a Yale undergraduate, he was a member of Skull and Bones and president of the Glee Club; during the second world

war he was a liaison officer with the French Army and later served with the CIA. He still plays squash at Stiles College—when he's not in jail for his civil-rights activities or leading antiwar marches in Washington and draft-resistance campaigns.

Such activist stands as these have moved Coffin into a direct conflict with Old Blue—and old Establishment—Yale president Kingman Brewster, who used a speech to the annual parents weekend assembly last week to dissociate the university from Coffin's "unworthy" tactics and his "strident" advice.

Immoral: The flap grew primarily from Coffin's role as one of 35 U.S. clergymen last month to offer their churches and synagogues as sanctuaries to draft resisters (NEWSWEEK, Oct. 16). Brewster's comments also were a response to Coffin's advice to students about draft cards. "I



Newsweek—Tony Rolin

Coffin: Disestablishmentarian

am not advocating the burning of draft cards," the chaplain says. "Nor am I counseling anyone to turn in his card. But I do have every intention of standing with those who in all good conscience feel they cannot cooperate with the Selective Service System."

Many students thought Brewster, 48, was playing to his audience. "Brewster wouldn't have said anything if the parents weren't there," said junior Eric Stiffler. And even Brewster took pains to praise his chaplain personally, saying that because of Coffin's "personal verve and social action, religious life within and without the church reaches more people at Yale than on any other campus I know about."

The parents weekend confrontation, however, probably was only the opening round in a basic conflict between Yale's passive and active Establishments.

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